

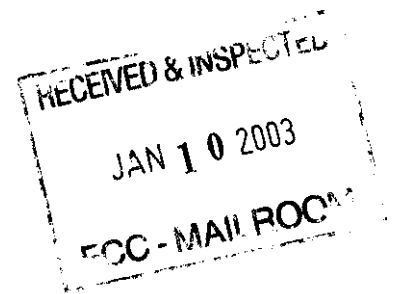
JOHN PIELMEIER

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Distribution Center **COURAGE**  
PRODUCTIONS



January 2, 2003

Commissioner Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

To Commissioner Powell,

I am writing to voice my support to retain all the FCC rules in question and to urge that the debate to retain these rules be open to the public. These rules set limits on concentration of the broadcast industry and serve the public interest by preserving diversity of ownership in the broadcast marketplace. These rules **are**; The Television-Radio Cross-Ownership Rule, The Broadcast-Newspaper Cross Ownership Ban, The National Television Ownership Rule, The Duopoly Rule for Radio, The Local Television Ownership Rule, and The Dual Network Rule.

The great privilege to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events, both locally and globally, is part of the founding philosophy of this country. If the avenues for sharing information are restricted to very few, then I fear that the quality of the information presented will decay. What is the value of varied information sources when they **are** controlled by a single voice?

As a writer, I know first hand the importance of freedom of expression. The ability to say things that are potentially challenging to audiences at large, or possibly critical of society's sacred cows and special interests, lies at the heart of what I do. If the channels to a potential audience -- be they broadcast television production, cable programming channels, local television stations, or even newspapers that promote and review independent works -- fall into the hands of even fewer corporate owners, sharing my work or the work of any artist will become much harder.

I urge you to encourage debate in this matter by holding more public hearings. The public interest will be best served by allowing public debate over rules that will have a dramatic effect over the news and entertainment we will be exposed to for years to come.

Thank you,

John Pielmeier

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